

Food Science Distance Education assists with careers at Kansas State

With about 75 students seeking bachelor's degrees and another 50 pursuing undergraduate certificates, Kansas State University's distance education program in food science is making its curriculum available to food industry employees and others who may not find it convenient to be a conventional on-campus student. With goals that are consistent with those of the Food Safety Consortium, Kansas State University's program attracts a variety of students.

"They're usually looking for some way they can stay currently employed but keep working on their education," said Deanna Retzlaff, an assistant professor in the Kansas State University Food Science Institute who coordinated the bachelor degree completion program.

"Those students usually are working in the food industry, but never finished a bachelor's degree, or have a degree in an unrelated field."

Online courses are offered in food processing fundamentals, microbiology, principles of HCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points), food defense, food safety and security, food safety risk analysis, quality assurance and trace and agricultural health.

Distance education also applies to Kansas State University's collaborative efforts with other

universities. Kansas State University is working with Purdue University and Indiana University to develop a national outreach program in food safety and food defense. Kansas State University's role is to develop modules in a distance education format for graduate students and working professionals.

"We brought together stakeholders in food safety and defense and they developed key learning objectives and defined what knowledge and skill sets they thought would be needed for someone to be a food defense professional," said Kelly Getty, an assistant professor in the Kansas State University Food Science Institute. "We're looking at how to take that information and create courses and modules."

In September, Kansas State University, Purdue University and Indiana University offered a two-day workshop for the food industry professionals and graduate students at Purdue. The workshop concluded with a simulation of a hypothetical food defense scenario where participants worked as teams to address an incident of internal plant contamination.

Kansas State University also participates with three other universities to offer food safety and defense courses through distance education. Kansas State University, Iowa State University, the

University of Missouri and the University of Nebraska have formed an Education Alliance (AGIDEA, www.agidea.org) to offer graduate-level instruction. Of the nine courses offered through the alliance, five are based at Kansas State University: multidisciplinary overview of food safety and security, food microbiology, principles of HACCP, principles of food defense for the food industry and rapid methods and automation in microbiology.

Kansas State University is also working to develop a Graduate Certificate of Completion Program in Food Protection and Defense.

The certificate would be offered jointly by several institutions and would demonstrate that students attain core competencies in food defense. The National Center for Food Protection and Defense asked Kansas State University to participate in the project. Abbey Nutsch, assistant professor in food safety and security at Kansas State University, is serving as the lead principal investigator for this program.

"We have received funding to develop this program," Getty said. "We're trying to leverage some of the work with Purdue and then bring in other courses with the collaborators at the National Center."

Awards

(Continued from Page 1) servation members, presented the essay and limerick awards.

In the kindergarten coloring contest, first place went to Natalie Kinderknecht and Lilly Beikman, second place went to Amy Wright and Cody Wagoner and third place went to Bailey Sides and Jacob Seamon.

First and second grade poster winners were Addison Brooks, first place; Connor Haresnape, second place; and Emily Miller, third place.

Third and fourth grade poster winners were Chaylee Lowry, first place; Kara Frack, second place; and Riley Sides, third place.

Fifth and sixth grade poster winners were Kristin Stewart, first place; Taylor Dicks, second place; and Michaela Sorensen, third place.

Essay winners were Andrew Bashford, first place; Casey Ambrosier, second place; and Molly Maddy, third place.

The winners were each presented with a plaque.

An election for a new board member was also held. Conservation members elected Therese Schultz.

"We felt like we had two good candidates. It was a close race," said Phil Loughry.

Norton County Conservation District personnel include: Robert Clydesdale, chairman; Greg Otter, vice-chairman; Donna Hale, treasurer; Chris Harting, member; Kevin Sides, member; Twila Dizmang, district manager and WRAPS coordinator; and Lari-Ann Nickell, clerical assistant and buffer coordinator.

Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel include:

George Carter, district conservationist and Frank Hillebrand, soil conservationist technician.

Funding for climate change research gets major boost

Funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for research on greenhouse gas mitigation in agriculture will increase by more than 10-fold, according to an announcement on Dec. 16, 2009 from United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

K-State has been a national leader in this field of research, including extensive work on agricultural soil carbon sequestration, said Chuck Rice, K-State University Distinguished Professor of Agronomy and national director of the Consortium for Agricultural Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases.

Rice was a member of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

"At K-State, we have had one of the most active research and extension pro Global Research Alliances in the country on greenhouse gas mitigation in agriculture," Rice said.

"Our work has helped establish carbon sequestration rates for no-till and Global Research Alliance lands used by emerging carbon markets. We also have helped establish national baselines for soil carbon levels, guidelines on carbon sequestration in cropping

systems, and ways to limit nitrous oxide emissions."

In conjunction with this work, K-State recently received part of a \$20 million National Science Foundation Global Research Alliance that helped further establish Kansas as an internationally recognized leader in global climate change and renewable energy research.

The new increase in United States Department of Agriculture funding for climate change research in agriculture comes as the U.S. joined 20 other countries across the globe on Dec. 16, 2009 to announce the formation of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, an international research collaborative to combat climate change.

K-State has been partnering with several countries included in Global Research Alliance, including Australia, Canada, Colombia and New Zealand.

Over the next four years, United States Department of Agriculture will expand agricultural climate change mitigation research by \$90 million and contribute this research to the Global Research Alliance.

The increase will raise United States Department of Agriculture's climate change

mitigation research portfolio to more than \$130 million over the next four years, up from a base level of funding of just over \$10 million in fiscal year 2009. United States Department of Agriculture's enhanced commitment is part of a larger increase on climate change research at the Department.

Overall, United States Department of Agriculture announced that it expects to invest more than \$320 million in the next four years on climate change mitigation and adaptation research for agriculture.

In conjunction with this announcement, United States Department of Agriculture also released a new report titled "The Effects of Climate Change on U.S. Ecosystems."

This report summarizes the most recent scientific findings on how climate change will affect agricultural systems in the U.S. and worldwide.

For more information on the United States Department of Agriculture Global Research Alliance initiative, see www.UnitedStatesDepartmentofAgriculture.gov and go to the "Press Room." Search for Release No. 0615.09 from Dec. 16, 2009.

Association meets in Norton

The Oberlin Chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees met at the Norton Senior Center meal site on Jan. 18. Area 5 Vice President Ron Katt and his wife, Karol, of Grainfield were guests.

President Gary Zodrow con-

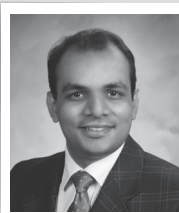
ducted the business meeting. A change in the by-laws was made so that meetings will be held quarterly each year in the months of April, June, September and December.

New members include: Claire Ann Eppinger, Keith VanSike,

Vesta Hobbs, Norton; and Diane Barrett, Oberlin.

Members of the Oberlin chapter include active and retired federal employees of Decatur, Norton and Rawlins Counties.

New Spine Surgeon Brings a World of Experience to the Orthopedic Institute at Hays Medical Center



When everyday activities such as bending, looking overhead or simply shaking your head become a challenge due to back pain, turn to Vivek Sharma, M.D., at the Orthopedic Institute at Hays Medical Center. Dr. Sharma, the newest physician at the Orthopedic Institute, is an expert on the very latest surgical and non-surgical treatment options for problems of the back and spine. His focus is on finding the most effective way to address your spinal disorder and get you back to living your life.

Dr. Sharma has extensive experience in the diagnosis and treatment of a broad spectrum of spinal disorders including:

- Management of cervical, thoracic, and lumbar disc herniations
- Treatment of spine fractures and other spine injuries
- Spinal cysts
- Spinal cord herniation
- Spine tumors
- Surgery for spinal stenosis
- Inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services

Dr. Sharma graduated from the G.S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital Program at the University of Mumbai in India. After completing his internship and residency, he earned his diploma in orthopedic surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Mumbai. He moved to the United States in 2005 and completed several clinical fellowships.

Dr. Sharma's fellowships include: Orthopedic Spine Surgery: The Christ Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, University of Cincinnati, (Cincinnati); Orthopedic Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy: Boston Children's Hospital,

Harvard Medical School (Boston); Pediatric Orthopedics: B.J. Wadia Hospital for Children (Mumbai, India), Cincinnati Children's Hospital, University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati); and Joint Reconstruction and Arthroplasty, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis).

He's also put his expertise to work as an orthopedic physician for the Boston Ballet, the Boston Marathon and NCAA games in Boston.

Now he's putting that same expertise to work for you. Right here in western Kansas. For more information about Dr. Sharma or available services at the Orthopedic Institute, go to www.haysortho.com.

Haiti

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- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Please enclose an envelope containing at least \$1 for each kit for shipping and \$1 to purchase toothpaste (United Methodist Committee on Relief Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.) This donation enables kits to be sent without delay to areas in need.

Important Kit Assembly Information

- All items included in kits must be new items.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items—nothing more.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Monetary gifts to support United Methodist Committee on Relief's Haiti Relief efforts can be made to Haiti Emergency, United Methodist Committee on Relief Advance #418325. Checks can be made to United Methodist Committee on Relief with Advance #418325 Haiti Emergency in the memo line. Checks can be

put in the church's offering plate or mailed to United Methodist Committee on Relief, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087

100 percent of gifts made to this advance will go to help the people of Haiti.

We lift up the families, friends and associates of Sam Dixon and Clint Rabb, Christian ministers with The United Methodist Church's mission and humanitarian organization, the General Board of Global Ministries. They died of injuries received in the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. Good friends, they were trapped with four other people, who survived, for 55 hours in the ruins of the Hotel Montana. Dixon headed the United Methodist Committee on Relief and Rabb worked with mission volunteers. They were in Haiti in an effort to improve health services in the very poor country.

"Please pray for all of the people affected by the earthquake in Haiti," Hawks said.



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Norton Outreach Clinic Schedule

Cardiology – Dr. Fisher Second Tuesday (785) 625-4699	Ophthalmology – Dr. Pokorny Surgery: Fourth Monday every other month Clinic: Fourth Tuesday every other month (785) 628-8218
Ear, Nose & Throat – Dr. Black Second Wednesday (785) 628-3131	Orthopedic – Dr. DeCarvalho Fourth Tuesday (866) 428-8221
Mobile Echo Monday (785) 877-3351	Urology Every fourth Monday (785) 877-3351

Call the number listed for specific clinic locations.